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itself the product of the capitalistic system of industry ; and the attempt of this class to maintain its place and advance its interests is not the result of agitation, but of inherited social conditions. No ruling class ever made concessions to the lower classes out of philanthropy, but only when urged by powerful pressure. The economic doctrines of Karl Marx, in relation to "surplus value," are abandoned ; but his claim to recognition rests on his exposition of the historic conception of the social movement, and the inner relationship of the economic, social, and political manifestations and precedents. He showed most clearly that the social movement is toward the communization of the means of production, and its way is the struggle between classes. The author is in manifest sympathy with these views of history ; only he urges legal methods and freedom from vindictiveness in the combats of classes. The synchronistic table of events in the movement from 1750 to 1896 is a valuable feature of the work.

C. R. H.

Annual Report (31st) of the State Board of Charities for the Year 1897. Two volumes. New York and Albany: Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co. Pp. 1190 + 926.

THESE two volumes are for the student of public charities a genuine contribution to knowledge. They deal with the complex system of relief in a great and highly developed state. The facts are presented in a clear order, and the discussions are written by persons of experience and ability. The articles on civil-service examination, placing-out bills, dispensaries, custody of the feeble-minded, and the various reports on particular institutions constitute a mine of information. It is worth while for a rich state to publish this material for practical and theoretical students and workers.

C. R. H.

Annales de l'Institut International de Sociologie. Tome IV. Contenant les travaux du troisième congrès tenu à Paris en juillet 1897. Paris: V. Giard & E. Brière, 1898. Pp. 589. F. 10.

THE general secretary of the "Institute," the editor of this volume, evidently thinks that the session of which it is a report was the most successful of the three thus far held. It does not strike me that the

intrinsic weight of the papers and discussions justifies this estimate. It is quite credible, however, that the discussions were "more animated" than at the previous sessions. The chief interest centered about "the organic theory of societies." Our French friends—including all the gentlemen who took part in the debate—are passing through a stage of thinking on this subject which Americans interested in the matter emerged from two or three years ago. It would hardly be possible to arouse American sociologists to very lively controversy over what remains in dispute. The men among us who make most use of the organic concept are satisfied that their opponents disagree with them only verbally, so far as the essential idea is concerned. Beyond that there remain merely differences of judgment about details in employing the concept. Since these differences relate to details and not to essentials, even the most zealous friends of the organic concept are satisfied that it can now take care of itself. They are content to assume that it is taken for granted, and their interest is transferred to other fields. They will hardly care to join the members of the "Institute" in threshing the old straw.

The remarks upon the principal papers are epitomized in the report. The leading contents are as follows:

"La définition de la sociologie," L. Stein.

"Le cerveau individuel et le cerveau social," R. Garofalo.

"L'économie de la douleur et l'économie du plaisir," Lester F. Ward.

"L'importance sociologique des études économiques sur les colonies," Achille Loria.

"La théorie organique des sociétés," J. Novicow, P. de Lilienfeld, G. Tarde, C. de Kranz, L. Stein, René Worms, S. R. Steinmetz, C. N. Starcke, R. Garofalo, Ch. Limousin, N. Karéiev, A. Espinas.

"Les lois de l'évolution politique," C. N. Starcke.

"Les sélections corollaires," S. R. Steinmetz.

"L'évolution de l'idée de monarchie," Raoul de la Grasserie.

"La mission de la justice criminelle dans l'avenir," Pedro Dorado.

"L'obligation sociale de l'assistance," Alfred Lambert.

"L'expérimentation en sociologie," René Worms.

"La science comme fonction de la société," Fr. Giner de los Rios.

A. W. S.

Congressional Committees. By LAUROS G. MCCONACHIE, PH.D.
(Library of Economics and Politics.) New York: Thomas
Y. Crowell & Co., 1898. Pp. xiv+441, 12mo.

THIS is a painstaking and exhaustive treatise introductory to the general thesis. Dr. McConachie has traced the evolution of the com-